

little common sense, we can do it. I urge my colleagues to look at my bill.

WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO OUR GIFT BAN?

(Mr. WATT of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, what ever happened to our gift ban? Last year the House voted two separate times to stop lobbyists from paying for Members' meals, entertainment and other "gimmees," but the Republicans in the other body stopped the gift ban in its tracks. On the first day of this Congress, Mr. Speaker, House Democrats moved to impose tough gift restrictions and royalty limits, but the effort failed with not a single Republican in support. In the meantime, the image of our Members continues to be battered by book deals and other appearances of impropriety.

If we are looking for respect, let us pass the gift ban. Mr. Speaker, give our image a break. Let us pass a gift ban.

□ 1420

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOEHNER). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Mississippi [Mr. MONTGOMERY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, our colleague, IKE SKELTON, is the recipient of the 1995 Minuteman of the Year Award from the Reserve Officers Association. He was honored this past week at the ROA's midwinter meeting in Washington.

I want to share with my colleagues the speech IKE made in accepting this deserving award.

COMMENTS OF REPRESENTATIVE IKE SKELTON

There are magic, memorable moments within one's life, and being here with you this evening is truly one of them. I have neither the mastery of words nor the eloquence of diction to express my gratitude on receiving this honor. It is a particular thrill to join the ranks of colleagues such as Greg Laughlin, Daniel Inouye, Jack Murtha, Sam Nunn, Sonny Montgomery, Strom Thurmond, and others who have received this award.

Through the years, I have had many friends among the Reserves, particularly those from Missouri, such as Capt. Mike Nolan. I feel a close kinship to those present.

I am indeed proud of the Reserve forces of our country. From the battle at Lexington, MA in 1775 to the Persian Gulf in 1991, where Bronze Star recipient Jim Ahrens from Lexington, MO served with distinction, reservists have been prepared and ready to heed our country's call to arms.

As we speak, there are over 13,000 American reservists serving in 34 countries, including 800 in Operation Uphold Democracy

in Haiti; over 600 with Operation Deny Flight in Bosnia; and over 1,500 reservists supporting counter-drug operations along our borders.

This past November, two of my colleagues—Chet Edwards and Jim Chapman of Texas—and I visited NATO headquarters in Brussels, where we were told by Brig. Gen. John Dallegger, "If we didn't have the Guard and Reserve 'to spell us', we couldn't do our mission over the long haul." At the Aviano Air Base in Italy, whose mission is Operation Deny Flight, Col. Dick Brenner said, "We fly about 600 sorties a month. And Reserve air units are completely integral to our flight operations. They are darn good pilots, and I am proud to fly with them." In Zagreb, Croatia, where the U.S. Navy operates the field hospital, Col. Jack Fitzgerald of the UNPROFOR forces told us, "We operate a hospital for the United Nations protection force. Reservists contribute special skills we need to support the operation. They come from everywhere in the United States—Virginia, Missouri, Texas—everywhere." And it was an Army Reserve helicopter unit placing huge boulders along the Missouri River which successfully kept that river from cutting a new channel during the flood of 1993. In short, the Reserve forces of our country live up to the finest traditions of the words, "citizen soldiers."

Unfortunately, those who wear the uniform are not always appreciated. Historically, the gratitude of the public does not always extend to those whose duty it is to defend them. This is reflected by the words from Rudyard Kipling's 1890 poem "Tommy:" Then it's Tommy this, an' Tommy that, and "Tommy, 'ow's yer soul?" But it's "Thin red line of 'eroes" when the drums begin to roll—

But appreciation or not, I know full well those who wear the American uniform will always do their duty.

Congressmen Edwards and Chapman and I also visited the Flanders Field American Cemetery in Waregem, Belgium. The village mayor came out to thank us for the American efforts on behalf of his country in two World Wars. We laid a wreath in memory of those 368 Americans who were killed in World War I. All of the men buried in that cemetery were soldiers of three National Guard divisions and one Army Reserve division. Citizen soldiers all. Four were from Missouri, and sadly, the crosses note that seven were killed in combat on November 11, 1918, just hours before the armistice.

During the wreath laying ceremony, a member of the cemetery staff read the poem that came out of that war, titled "In Flanders Fields." In the poem is the phrase "to you from failing hands we throw the torch, be yours to hold it high." The author, prophetically, was killed in battle later in the war, and through the poem spoke to succeeding generations of those who value freedom. The memory of our visit to that American cemetery in Flanders shall long remain with me.

This is a dangerous world in which we live. The long twilight struggle, the bitter contest against Communist expansion, has come to an end. With the fall of the Berlin Wall, and the implosion of the Soviet Union, a certain euphoria swept across our land, only to be replaced with the reality of Saddam Hussein and others whose values and designs are not the same as ours.

Few realize that during 1994, this country came close to armed conflict three times—in North Korea, Haiti, and Kuwait. The first two were diffused by the diplomacy of former President Jimmy Carter, and one was blocked by American forces being rushed to the Middle East once again. Conflicts and

threats rage throughout the globe, and those involving our vital interests are of concern not only to those who wear American uniforms, but to every citizen of the United States.

Our country, historically, has made the mistake of disarming after every major conflict. This fact was decried by an Army major in 1923, when he noted "The regular cycle in the doing and undoing of measures for the national defense." He added, "We start in the making of adequate provisions and then turn abruptly in the opposite direction and abolish what has just been done." Maj. George C. Marshall's words are as applicable to today's military downsizing as they were 72 years ago.

We should not allow the post-cold-war era to be one where we slash our national security as we have done heretofore in our history. We should learn from the past, and heed the warning of General Marshall.

The protection of freedom and American vital interests is no small thing. A ready and able military is our national defense insurance policy. In time of conflict, it allows us to be successful. It gives strength to our international diplomacy. In other times, it prevents the clash of arms. Every American should understand these basic truths regarding national security.

In 1935, Winston Churchill warned his countrymen that, "wars come very suddenly." This warning is worth keeping in mind in 1995. In other words, the ordeal of the 20th century is not over.

In 1939, we were surprised by the signing of the non-aggression pact between the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany. The consequences were horrific.

In 1941, we were surprised by the attack of the Empire of Japan on United States naval forces at Pearl Harbor.

In 1946, we were surprised by the Iron Curtain and the cold war.

In 1950, we were surprised by the attack of North Korea against the South.

In 1961, we were surprised when the Berlin Wall went up.

In 1962, we were surprised when Khrushchev put missiles in Cuba.

In 1968, we were surprised by the Tet offensive by the North Vietnamese.

In 1979, we were surprised by the fall of the Shah of Iran.

In 1980, we were surprised by the attack of Iraq against Iran.

In 1990, we were surprised by the attack and occupation of Kuwait by Iraq.

And just last fall, we were surprised by the sudden movement of Iraq forces toward Kuwait.

Truly, this is an uncertain world. Unpredictable, like the patterns we see in the turning of a child's kaleidoscope. There are those in this audience who will once again hear the rattle of musketry, the crash of artillery, the roar of the jet engine, and the klaxon call to battle stations. No one seeks this, but until mankind finds a better way to solve disputes and conflicts, this prediction will come to pass.

The late President Harry Truman, who, coincidentally had both Army National Guard and Reserve careers, had a sign on his desk that stated, "the buck stops here." The Constitution states, without any further explanation, that the President is the Commander in Chief of our military forces. By contrast, that document sets forth in detail in article one, section eight the duties of the Congress, as representatives of the American people, to raise and maintain the military, and set the regulations that govern it.

Thus, the same could be said of Congress regarding our national security duties, "the